

VOL. XXXIII, NO. 10,265.

## WASHINGTON.

THE FINANCIAL DEBATE.  
ANOTHER BRILLIANT SPEECH BY SENATOR SCHURZ—  
THE FALLACIES OF THE INFLATION DOCTRINE  
EXPONDED—NO PROSPECT OF A FINAL VOTE  
FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The dreary monotony of the debate in the Senate on finance was again broken to-day, by one of Senator Schurz's most brilliant speeches. Once before, this session, he came forward as the champion of the honest, statesman-like policy of making some early provision for a return to specie payments, and ever since, such inflationists as Messrs. Morton, Ferry of Michigan, and Loran, have been hammering away at the sound logic he then gave the country, and vainly trying to meet his overwhelming conclusions. But his first speech was made before the debate on this subject had really begun. It was during the time when Senators were defining their positions in carefully prepared speeches, chiefly written during the recess, and when they had but few of the arguments of their opponents to combat. Mr. Schurz's do-nothing policy had then been announced, and gave Mr. Schurz at that time an opportunity to expose its fallacies, but the greatest part of his speech was devoted to the laying down of fundamental principles and their application to the circumstances of the present time. Since that speech was made, the Senate has taken hold of the subject in earnest, and the long debate has furnished ample material for an orator of Mr. Schurz's ability and power.

The galleries were crowded for the first time since this Congress met, and hundreds went away because they were unable to find even standing room, while those who were fortunate enough to get within reach of the Senator's voice patiently for almost three long hours, and gave him their undivided attention to the close. It is unnecessary to attempt to give a summary of Mr. Schurz's speech; that is done in the General Press dispatches. He did not attempt to answer all the fallacies of the inflationists, for they could not even be enumerated in a single speech of any ordinary length; but he took up some of the more specious errors, and let such a flood of light through them that they will hardly be of any further use.

A striking example of his dealing in the manner in which he handled the assumption that the abundance of money in the large cities of the West is due to the issue of \$25,000,000 or \$30,000,000 of the legal-tender reserve. By comparing the bank statements of Boston, New-York, and Philadelphia for last week, with those of the same cities for the corresponding week of last year, he found that the amount of currency lying in the vaults of the banks of those cities was now almost \$25,000,000 greater than it was a year ago. In other words, the whole of this additional \$25,000,000 of currency has been absorbed by the Eastern banks, and the present abundance of money in the monetary centers of the West is due to other causes. The Senator concluded, therefore, that if the proposed inflation is in the form of legal tenders, the additional currency, instead of going to the South and West will go directly to Wall-st., and this conjecture was made a certainty by the fact that there is no way to get the new greenbacks out of the Treasury, so long as our revenue equal our expenditures, except by buying bonds, and Wall-st. alone has the bonds to sell.

He disposed of the argument that an increase of the National bank currency would make money plenty in the West and South with equal ease. He showed that in order to get the bonds which are to form the basis of circulation for new banks, money must be taken out of the circulation in the localities where the bonds are to be established and carried to New-York, where the bonds are for sale. One hundred and twelve dollars of currency will purchase a \$100 bond, and the Treasury will issue for that \$90 in currency. Of that \$90 a country bank has to keep 15 per cent as a reserve, so that there is only \$75.50 in circulation in the West after the new bank is established, instead of \$112 as before. The currency has been contracted in the West and South by the operation and expansion of the money centers of the East.

Senator Schurz's speech has destroyed all desire on the part of the inflationists to vote on any of the proposed amendments for a few days at least, so that the country may expect to remain in suspense a while longer before any real indication of the Senate's financial policy will be given.

## THE FRANKING BILL.

ADVERSE OF UNUSUAL INTEREST—A HUMOROUS AND SATIRICAL SPEECH BY MR. FIELDS IN OPPOSITION TO THE REVIVAL OF THE ABUSE.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—The debate on the Franking bill to-day possessed features of more than usual interest, although much of it was addressed to an unusually thin House, scores of members having gone over to the Senate to hear Mr. Schurz's speech on the finances.

Mr. Willard, who has always been an active and constant opponent of the franking abuse and the kindred abuse of extravagant expenditures for public printing delivered an able speech, in which he characterized the whole business of printing documents at the expense of the people for distribution according to the caprice or pleasure of members of Congress as a species of public plunder.

The principle was the same, he declared, as if Congressmen should take \$2,000 a piece from the Treasury and distribute the money just as they saw fit among their constituents. The money was, in fact, taken from the Treasury, and was invested in books which the members received as a perquisite, each getting about 3,000 volumes, or about enough to give one to every fourth man among their constituents. Such a method of distribution was, he argued, unjust, unequal, and indefensible.

Mr. Potter favored the sale of all documents at the cost price, as in England. If the franking privilege were to be partially revived, he insisted that it should extend to the speeches of members, which, he thought, were the most valuable of all the documents. He had made a collection of all the speeches delivered at Saturday sessions since he had been in Congress, and said that they contained a great deal of information and evidence of a high order of statesmanship. Mr. Potter's hearers at first thought he intended this statement for a joke, but they could find no signs of levity in his manner, and were obliged to regard his admiration for Saturday oratory as an unaccountable idiosyncrasy.

The most notable speech of the day, as regards the attention it attracted, was that of Mr. Phelps of New-York, who, while keeping the House constantly amused with his peculiar humor and droll utterances, managed at the same time to deliver an attack upon the bill that was fully as effective as any that had been made in professedly serious speeches. He characterized the pending measure as the disreputable outgrowth of the XLIII Congress, whom the House had picked up, and after putting a silk on his head and dyeing his mustache, were trying to make the people believe was not the old, original Jacob. His satirical licks at the Western members who stand in awe of the Grange movement, at Mr. Garfield's eulogy upon country editors, and at Mr. Phelps's own, were particularly good. Before Mr. Phelps was half through with his speech he had the entire House laughing, and at the conclusion he received the rare compliment of a round of unparliamentary applause.

No vote was taken on the bill to-day. Mr. Packer announced that he would call the previous question

to-morrow. He intends to allow a vote on Mr. R. S. Hale's amendment, fully reviving the franking privilege as it existed before the repealing act was passed.

THE BOSTON COLLECTORSHIP.  
EXCITEMENT AMONG NEW-ENGLAND PEOPLE OVER  
SIMMONS'S NOMINATION—AN INFLUENTIAL DELEGATION  
FROM BOSTON CALLS ON THE PRESIDENT  
AND REQUESTS ITS WITHDRAWAL.

(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)  
WASHINGTON, Feb. 24.—Probably no nomination ever made by the President has excited more resentment among the people of the section interested than that of Simmons for Collector of the Port of Boston. From the day it was sent to the Senate, the hostility against it has been very strong, and it is increasing in power daily. At first the people of Boston contented themselves with sending telegrams protesting against the nomination, and urging the President to withdraw it and the Senate to reject it. The politicians began to take a lively interest in it, and delegations representing various shades of politics and business began to gather here, some urging the rejection of Simmons and others favoring it. Telegrams continued to pour in upon the President and upon the several Senators and Representatives from Massachusetts, and the excitement became almost as strong among New-England people here as at home.

The contest to-day is at its height, and from its intensity it is plain to see that it cannot last much longer. A delegation composed of about a dozen gentlemen representing many millions of capital, selected from the membership of the Commercial Club of Boston, arrived here this morning to oppose the confirmation. Among the number were the following, who stand at the head of business in Boston, viz: Ex-Gov. Wm. Claflin, J. M. Forbes, W. V. H. Hutchins, T. Albert Taylor, Isaac Taylor, Wm. P. Kennard, Edward Page, George P. Dewey, and Edward W. Kinsley. The first duty of this delegation was to call on the President. They represented to him that they represented every commercial interest in Boston, all of which were opposed to Mr. Simmons. They felt it their duty to give the President a true understanding of the condition of the public mind, and hoped he would see the propriety of recalling the nomination. The President informed the delegation that if he had thought the nomination would have provoked so much opposition he should not have made it, but that having now been made, on what he regarded as suitable recommendations, he did not feel at liberty to recall it except upon the request of those recommending it.

The delegation are very indignant at the fact that the nomination is kept in the Senate by four members of the Massachusetts delegation in Congress for the benefit of one in spite of the opposition of nine. It is claimed that the only members of the delegation in favor of Simmons's confirmation are Messrs. Boutwell, Butler, Hooper and Buffington, and that the remaining nine are either actively hostile or quietly opposed to the confirmation. Mr. Pierce, one of the Boston members, is very forceful in his hostility, and nearly all think that Mr. Butler has unwarrantably interfered in a district with which he has nothing to do. Mr. Crocker has been a portion of the time neutral, and it is claimed by some of his friends that he has been alternately on both sides.

The members of the Commercial Club were in the Capitol soon after the opening of the session, and called on the several Massachusetts members, including Senator Boutwell. They seemed to have learned early in the day that the whole of the responsibility rested, not with the members of the House, nor with the Senate as a body, but with Senator Boutwell. They were soon informed of what is indeed true, that if Mr. Boutwell favors the nomination of Mr. Simmons he will be promptly confirmed, and that if he opposes the nomination it will be rejected. Therefore the Boston gentlemen made a formidable effort on the Administration Senator, but it is not ascertained that any effect was produced. They subsequently called on Gen. Butler, who took them to his (the Judiciary) Committee room, and a long conference followed. He did not express sorrow for what he had done, nor did he offer any compromise or withdrawal. He was very polite and friendly in his conversation, and expressed great surprise that the nomination was not received in a more friendly spirit. The Committee were given no reason to believe that any change would be made, and, having done all they could do in presenting the case to the President and Mr. Boutwell, they will return to Boston to-morrow night.

A suggestion is made by a certain very influential gentleman on the public life, that a compromise might be effected by the appointment of Ex-Gov. Claflin to the Collectorship, and Wm. E. Chandler of New Hampshire to be Naval Officer in place of Ex-Gov. Harrison of New Hampshire, who has been several years in office.

## CURRENT TOPICS AT THE CAPITAL.

## THE REFUNDING OF DUTIES ON FRUIT.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1874.  
Mr. Merriam told the House to-day that the Secretary of the Treasury was daily paying from \$10,000 to \$20,000 to the fruit importers as a refund of the duties levied on fruit before the existence of the surreptitious customs, which placed that article on the free list, was discovered. Mr. Merriam asked the House to pass a bill which he offered, directing a suspension of such payments, but Mr. Wood objected on the ground that the measure should come from the Ways and Means Committee.

## THE PORT LOOKOUT RAILROAD BILL.

The discussion of the bill to grant the right of way through the city to the Washington and Point Lookout railroad has already resulted in a movement to compel the Baltimore and Potomac Road to remove its station and tracks from the public grounds between the Capitol and the Smithsonian Institution, which it now occupies under authority of a law passed two years ago. A bill for this purpose was introduced to-day.

## THE EXPORT OF DISTILLED SPIRITS.

A bill from the Ways and Means Committee relating to the export of distilled spirits in bond, was passed by the House to-day. It changes existing laws so as to require the spirits to be landed at the particular foreign port named in the bill of lading, but to allow them to be landed, under certain restrictions, at any place at which the vessel may call.

## WASHINGTON NOTES.

WASHINGTON, Tuesday, Feb. 24, 1874.  
The Treasury Department has prepared for transmission to the House of Representatives the specific sums necessary to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for the year ending June 30, 1874, and prior years. They are as follows: For Department of State, \$1,087,000; Treasury Department, \$2,653,750; War Department, \$1,246,000; Department of the Interior, \$8,485; Department of Justice, \$2,047,000; Judicial Department, \$2,944; Total, \$10,126,235.

The Department of State has forwarded to our ministers abroad for communication to the governments to which they are accredited, copies of the law recently passed authorizing United States troops to coin money for foreign governments under Treasury regulations. The Director of the Mint has advised that 250,000 of the new trade dollars will soon be dispatched from New-York to London.

The Senate Committee on Pacific Railroads has perfected its General Railroad bill for the Territories. The amendments that will be reported are generally of a character to guard more fully against abuses of Credit Mobilier awards.

The Senate Committee on Finance to-day agreed to report favorably on the bill for the relief of United States Treasurer Billings of New-York City, making good the deficiency of one of his clerks, amounting to some \$700,000.

## SAFETY OF THE FISHERMEN ARILOT IN SAGINAW

DETROIT, Feb. 24.—It is now probable that all the fishermen on the floating ice in Saginaw Bay will reach the land in safety. Two hundred reached the

shore last night. The others who were on another field have been driven to the west shore by a change in the wind, so they probably can land easily. The report that Smith and Porter were drowned is not true.

## ALBANY.

THE CURRENT OF LEGISLATION—RESULTS OF COMMISSIONER SMITH'S DEATH—ALBANY NOTES.  
(BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.)

ALBANY, Feb. 24.—There was a quorum in both Houses this evening, and considerable business was done in committee. The Assembly ordered to a third reading the bill authorizing the wife to testify for the husband, or vice versa, in criminal cases whenever either shall be a witness on his or her own behalf on trial. The bill authorizing the formation of county medical societies comprising physicians of any or all schools of medicine, with all the privileges and powers now granted to county medical societies under the act of 1863, and Mr. Wagoner's bill changing the name of the Sixpenny Savings Bank, in Astor place, to the City Savings Bank, were ordered to a third reading. The Brooklyn Bridge bill, which was reported from the Senate Commerce and Navigation Committee last week, was to-night referred to the Judiciary Committee.

The death of Police Commissioner Henry Smith has raised a question as to the construction of the charter relating to the appointment of his successor. There is a difference of opinion among members of the Legislature, but the best lawyers here are clearly of the opinion that the power of appointment is vested in the Mayor, and that no additional legislation will be needed on the subject. There is a strong feeling, however, in favor of reorganizing the whole Commission, and the death of Mr. Smith is looked upon as removing the principal obstacle to such legislation.

The Senate Commerce and Navigation Committee has reported favorably the bill to prevent the obstruction of New-York harbor by the dumping in the river of ashes from steamers, tug-boats, &c. It provides that scows be placed along the shore of the North and East Rivers for the reception of ashes, these scows to be under the control of the Police Department.

The Court of Appeals will adjourn on Friday of this week till the 23d of March. There have been two or three consultations of the Judges in the case of The People ex. Rogers, but no decision has yet been arrived at. The case will not probably be decided until the reassembling of the Court next week.

(GENERAL PRESS DISPATCH.)  
Senator Woodin, from the Finance Committee, on Cities, to which was referred Assembly Bill No. 22, relative to the duties and duties of the Department of Public Parks of the City of New-York, reported to-night an amended bill, providing as follows:

SECTION 1. The determination of the lines of curb and roadway in all streets, roads, and avenues in the City of New-York, within the distance of 300 feet from the outer boundary of any public park or place which is now or may hereafter be under the care of the Department of Public Parks (except Riverside-avenue, to be continued hereafter, and said board shall have power to plant trees, and erect public drinking fountains, &c., on said streets, parks, avenues, &c.)  
SEC. 2. The avenues, roads, and grades, as shown by the Survey of the City of New-York, made by H. H. Wallis, President, dated Feb. 17, 1874, are hereby established as the Riverside-avenue, instead of the avenue as hereinbefore laid out. The Department of Public Parks, in connection with the Commissioner of Public Works, to have power to make such changes as they deem best.

SEC. 3. All the work of improving the roads and parks to be done by the Department of Public Parks, within the distance of 300 feet from the outer boundary of any public park or place which is now or may hereafter be under the care of the Department of Public Parks (except Riverside-avenue, to be continued hereafter, and said board shall have power to plant trees, and erect public drinking fountains, &c., on said streets, parks, avenues, &c.)

SEC. 4. The work of improving the roads and parks to be done by the Department of Public Parks, within the distance of 300 feet from the outer boundary of any public park or place which is now or may hereafter be under the care of the Department of Public Parks (except Riverside-avenue, to be continued hereafter, and said board shall have power to plant trees, and erect public drinking fountains, &c., on said streets, parks, avenues, &c.)

SEC. 5. The work of improving the roads and parks to be done by the Department of Public Parks, within the distance of 300 feet from the outer boundary of any public park or place which is now or may hereafter be under the care of the Department of Public Parks (except Riverside-avenue, to be continued hereafter, and said board shall have power to plant trees, and erect public drinking fountains, &c., on said streets, parks, avenues, &c.)

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